



Gel Warming & Storage

The following is provided in response to requests for information on the bacteriostatic effectiveness of EcoVue® and EcoVue® HV Ultrasound Gel when placed in a warming device commonly used for warming ultrasound gel:

It is important to note that when stored properly at room temperature and away from direct sunlight, unopened EcoVue® and EcoVue® HV Ultrasound Gel products have a shelf life of 36 months from the date of manufacture. The date of expiration is indicated across all packaging options of EcoVue® and EcoVue® HV Ultrasound Gel.

During a 28-day study, EcoVue® and EcoVue® HV Ultrasound Gel products were stored at room temperature and at 98.6°F to 109.4°F to simulate conditions in an Acclimate® Gel Warmer. Samples under both conditions evaluated at the conclusion of the 28-day period found no evidence of bacterial growth.

Conclusion

EcoVue® and EcoVue® HV Ultrasound Gels meet USP standards for antimicrobial effectiveness, and testing performed on EcoVue® and EcoVue® HV Gels confirm that the product remains free from microbial growth for at least three (3) years from the date of manufacture. Using a warmer for the gel does not impact the expiration time. Since there is no effective way to determine whether an opened bottle of gel has been contaminated, general industry guidelines are that gel bottles should be marked to expire 28 days after opening (or sooner if internal facility guidelines require multi-use products be discarded in a shorter timeframe). Single-use packets should never be reused.